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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 435th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 14 July 1994, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 48/82 OF 16 DECEMBER 1993 (continued)

GENERAL DISCUSSION

FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF NEW ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

FUTURE ROLE OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

1. Mr. KAMUNANWIRE (Uganda) said that the objectives stated in the 1971 Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace were still valid and should be reaffirmed by the Ad Hoc Committee.

2. Changes in the international situation, having recently removed impediments to the realization of those objectives, it was vital that the Committee should seize the chance to fulfil its mandate. His delegation considered the question of peace in the region of primary importance because most of Uganda's trade with the outside world was done by way of the Indian Ocean.

3. His delegation thought a number of positive factors had appeared during the course of the debate. Those factors favoured the establishment of a climate of confidence at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels. The Committee should be able to reach a consensus on those matters and thus make significant progress towards the realization of its objectives.

4. Mr. ETEFFA (Ethiopia), recalling the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean during the period of great-Power rivalry, said that at the moment the international political climate was much more favourable than in 1971 to the creation of a zone of peace, stability and security.

5. That objective would, however, remain Utopian if the conflicts existing in the region were not addressed on the basis of sovereign equality, peaceful coexistence, territorial integrity and interdependence. There could be lasting peace only under those conditions.

6. The Ad Hoc Committee should lay special emphasis on international cooperation, and as a first step should encourage all the littoral and hinterland States, as well as the major maritime users, to take an active part in its discussions.

7. The complementary relationship between regional and global peace was uncontroversial. The international community should concern itself with preventive diplomacy, confidence-building measures and non-military means of establishing international peace and security. Those who questioned the relevance of the Committee might be convinced to review their positions if they understood the validity of such interactions.

8. Only the concrete political commitment of the countries of the region and the major maritime users could make those efforts succeed, by means of a constructive dialogue aimed at reconciling divergent views.

9. The CHAIRMAN announced that, in response to a request, he had prepared a revised version of the working paper on conclusions and recommendations. The document was before the Ad Hoc Committee and would be considered at an informal meeting later in the morning.

10. Paragraph 4 of the working paper referred to a separate document which was being prepared and would be available to members of the Committee in the afternoon. They would find in it all the proposals made on various other procedural approaches. Proposals which had not been discussed the previous day would be considered immediately.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.